

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

August 2019

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

**LD 1317 An Act To Restore Services To Help Certain Noncitizens Meet Their Basic Needs**

**Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D LIBBY N	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill removes limitations on food supplement program benefits and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program benefits, provides MaineCare coverage and modifies language for state-funded supplemental security income to maintain consistency throughout the law for certain noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States or pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-248)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was adopted in the House but the Legislature adjourned before it was taken up in the Senate.

**House Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-645)**

This amendment strikes the appropriations and allocations section in Committee Amendment "A" and instead replaces the bill with a resolve that clarifies state law to ensure that, within existing resources, certain noncitizens are able to access certain assistance.

This amendment was adopted in the House but the Legislature adjourned before it was taken up in the Senate.

**LD 1318 Resolve, To Increase Access to Housing-related Support Services**

**RESOLVE 55**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM	H-349

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for waivers to provide housing-related services, including housing transition and tenancy sustaining services, to individuals with disabilities, older adults needing long-term services and supports and persons experiencing chronic homelessness under the 1915(b) and 1915(c) Medicaid waiver provisions. It also directs the department to amend MaineCare rules to implement the waivers once approved. These allowable benefits are set forth in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Informational Bulletin dated June 26, 2015 on Coverage of Housing-Related Activities and Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

The resolve also directs the department to review any waivers or state plan amendments available under Title XIX of the United States Social Security Act to stabilize access to safe and affordable housing for individuals with disabilities, older adults, individuals needing long-term services and supports and persons experiencing chronic homelessness through the provision of housing transition, tenancy sustainment and case management services and to collaborate with the Maine State Housing Authority to determine how resources may be leveraged more effectively to address housing needs. As part of its review, the department is required to convene a stakeholder group to solicit input regarding methods to improve health outcomes through greater housing stability.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-349)**

## *Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

This amendment replaces the resolve. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to examine opportunities available pursuant to a home and community-based services waiver available from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including, but not limited to, a Medicaid 1915(i) state plan amendment to provide housing-related services to persons experiencing chronic homelessness who have mental health or substance use disorders and other vulnerable populations.

It also directs the department to collaborate with Maine State Housing Authority to determine how resources may be leveraged more effectively to address the housing needs of persons experiencing chronic homelessness who have mental health or substance use disorders and other vulnerable populations and to consult with interested stakeholders as it conducts this review. The department must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services with any recommendations related to this review by no later than February 1, 2020, and the committee is authorized to report out a bill to implement the recommendations.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 55 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to examine opportunities available pursuant to a home and community-based services waiver available from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including, but not limited to, a Medicaid 1915(i) state plan amendment to provide housing-related services to persons experiencing chronic homelessness who have mental health or substance use disorders and other vulnerable populations. It also directs the department to collaborate with Maine State Housing Authority to determine how resources may be leveraged more effectively to address the housing needs of persons experiencing chronic homelessness who have mental health or substance use disorders and other vulnerable populations and to consult with interested stakeholders as it conducts this review. The department must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services with any recommendations related to this review by no later than February 1, 2020, and the committee is authorized to report out a bill to implement the recommendations.

### **LD 1337      **Resolve, To Save Lives by Establishing a Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Pilot Project within the Department of Health and Human Services****

**RESOLVE 105**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D	OTP-AM	H-429
SANBORN L	ONTP	S-340    BREEN C

This bill establishes within the Department of Health and Human Services a program to provide rapid access to low-barrier treatment for substance use disorders and stable housing to support recovery and create stability for 50 opioid users who are among the most vulnerable and unstable in the State. The bill details the program objectives, eligibility criteria for program participants and services that must be provided to those participants, including medication-assisted treatment, intensive case management services and financial and case management assistance to ensure immediate and continued access to stable housing. The bill requires an independent evaluation of the program and directs the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding the program by March 15, 2020 and annually thereafter. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation regarding the program.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-429)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the bill into a resolve. The bill established a homeless opioid users service engagement program. The amendment changes it to a pilot project that operates for 24 months. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-340)**

This amendment provides that the Maine State Housing Authority, within its existing programs and resources, is